

M E D I A A D V I S O R Y

Contact: Suzanne Schroeder
Kevin Callori
(916) 654-9029

Date: July 22, 2005

News Release No.: 05-37

SIXTY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN STATEWIDE FORUM

WHAT: The 14th Annual Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) for Students with Disabilities. California created the YLF concept and was the first state to hold a YLF conference. Today, more than 33 states and Puerto Rico have followed California's lead.

WHERE: The Forum will be held at California State University (CSU), Sacramento at Desmond Hall. On Wednesday morning, the students will be in downtown Sacramento at the State Capitol to meet with Legislators and other government officials.

WHY: The primary purpose of the Forum is to prepare students with disabilities to reach their career goals and join the workforce, live independently, become involved in their communities, and to continue their successes by learning from adults with disabilities who excel in their personal and professional lives. During the five-day conference, student delegates will participate in leadership development programs, including interactive small group workshops.

WHEN: July 24 – 28, 2005 (Sunday – Thursday). The best opportunity to document this story will be:

Monday, July 25: CSU, Sacramento (Desmond Hall), 9:30 a.m.– noon:

- Delegates will participate in an obstacle awareness course.
- Sessions will include panel/group discussions.
- Dance performance by AXIS Dance Company (performers with disabilities).
- Student delegates will be available for interviews.

Tuesday, July 26: CSU, Sacramento (Desmond Hall), 9:45 a.m. – noon:

- Assistive technology exhibits and presentations will be available to delegates.
- Delegates will be available for interviews.

Tuesday, July 26: CSU, Sacramento (Student Union), noon – 2 p.m:

- Mentor's Luncheon. Delegates have an opportunity to meet and talk with successful adults with disabilities. Welcoming by EDD Director Patrick Henning, with a keynote presentation by Brooke Fox, YLF Alumnae and a musician and recording artist.

Tuesday, July 26: CSU, Sacramento (Desmond Hall), 7 p.m. – 9 p.m:

- Delegates will participate in a talent show.
- Delegates will be available for interviews.

(more)

Wednesday, July 27, State Capitol (North Steps)

- 9 a.m. – Delegates assemble for group photo and rally cheer.
- 10 a.m. – Delegates will meet in the Governor's Council Room with Administration representatives
- 10:45 a.m. – State Capitol tour.
- Noon – 1 p.m. Delegates will have lunch in the Capitol basement cafeteria. Assemblyman Dave Jones (D - Sacramento) will welcome the delegates.
- 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. – Delegates will visit individual Legislator's offices.

WHO: Sixty extraordinary high school students from throughout the state are expected to attend. They were selected by the Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities, a part of the state's Employment Development Department, along with representatives of several other state departments and agencies. Participants were selected based on their community leadership and their achievements and unique experiences as people living with disabilities.

#####